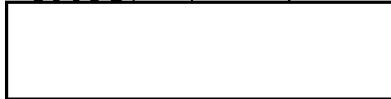


for Congressional testimony
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OLC #77-0728
2 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: George L. Cary



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SUBJECT: Proposed Congressional Briefings

1. This is in response to [redacted] memorandum of 1 March requesting my suggestions on a plan to expand Agency briefings to other committees of Congress.

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2. I feel that what [redacted] has come up with, though vital to the program, is too narrow. In order to make this program meaningful, and to be of maximum benefit to committees of Congress, I suggest that, if possible, the DDI come up with a list of Agency publications on the various subjects that [redacted] has noted plus other subjects which may be of Congressional interest. I don't feel that our support should be limited to briefings alone. If we can provide periodic reports of interest we should be able to satisfy committee requirements with periodic briefings as needed. The listing of publications should indicate levels of classification and purposes for which they are prepared to determine if Congressional dissemination is appropriate. The first crack should list all unclassified publications of subjects considered appropriate since most committees can better utilize the information. I would go so far as to say that if this program is intended to be meaningful, a positive program should be established to prepare unclassified publications on subjects of high interest which would be prepared specifically to meet Congressional needs. Perhaps the economic and energy committees are good examples of prime customers. Hopefully, this could be done without adversely affecting meeting the Agency's statutory requirements within the Executive Branch.

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3. Further, I think it very unwise to directly contact staff or other committees to establish this broadened program without first clearing this with our oversight

committees. Such a broad program should not only have their approval, but we need their guidance and assistance. Also, there must be a clear understanding as to what role, if any, the committees may want to play. I am sure they will give us full support.

4. Before making any contacts, we should keep in mind that certain committees may not want classified information since this inhibits full utilization of the information and creates security problems; i.e., clearances, storage, etc. A clear example is Chairman Olin Teague, House Science and Technology Committee, who has made it clear many times that he does not want his Committee involved in classified information. He feels such information is unnecessary to carry out the responsibilities of his Committee and, as he has stated, he finds it difficult to distinguish classified from unclassified information and might inadvertently reveal classified information. Contacts with this Committee, and with other committee chairmen sharing this view, must be carefully handled.

5. Accordingly, I suggest the following be considered:

a. A list be prepared of Agency publications, both classified and unclassified, concerning all subjects which are considered to be of Congressional interest. This overall listing would then be reviewed to determine which best meets Congressional needs with preference given to unclassified publications.

b. A program be initiated whereby analysts will be aware of this continuing Congressional interest and will prepare, wherever appropriate, unclassified publications for Congressional requirements which eventually hopefully would become recurring on a continual basis.

d. No approaches to other committees be made unless we first get the approval of our oversight committee chairmen, seek their guidance, and get a clear understanding of the role they want to play with established guidelines if necessary.

6. If we proceed as presently indicated to limit the program to periodic briefings when there appear to be matters of interest, I feel the program will woefully

miss the mark unless we first get a clear picture of the extent to which the Agency can provide intelligence that it now disseminates in present publications and determines how the present publication programs can be expanded to meet Congressional requirements. Perhaps I am looking too far ahead in what I propose; but if it has any merit, I urge it be initiated as soon as possible.

[Redacted]

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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cc: [Redacted]

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